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App. No.: 10/825,002
Filed: 12/27/2004
Atty Dkt: 1-0941-602cip
Amendment "B" in Response to 06/11/2007 Office
Action

Jack Hoosmer Morgan Jr., Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3782
Title: SECONDARY VERTICAL LATCHING LEVER AND
SECONDARY HORIZONTAL LATCHING LEVER
HOLSTERS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A holster for a handgun having a barrel, a trigger guard and a trigger within said trigger guard comprising: a pouch having an inside panel and an outside panel; a housing secured in said pouch; said housing including a slot for receiving said trigger guard and a fixed stop for said trigger guard; a pivotable lever having a finger-engageable end and a blocking projection, said finger-engaging end being positioned relative to said pouch such that said finger-engaging end is spaced below the trigger guard relative to the barrel and away from the wearer's trigger finger; and a resilient device for urging said blocking projection into a space within said trigger guard when said handgun is in said holster such that said trigger guard is captured by said blocking projection; wherein removal of said handgun requires ~~moving~~ movement of said finger-engaging end ~~in a path that cannot pass over or through said trigger guard or into engagement with said trigger~~ in opposition to the force of said resilient device into a position where said blocking projection cannot engage said trigger guard.

2. (ORIGINAL)A holster as claimed in claim 1 wherein a fulcrum device is secured to said housing on one side of said slot and said lever is secured to said housing by said fulcrum device.

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3. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pivotable lever is a first-class lever.

4. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pivotable lever is a second-class lever.

5. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 2 wherein said resilient device is positioned on said one side of said slot and contacts said lever on the same side of said fulcrum device as said blocking projection.

6. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 2 wherein said fulcrum device is secured to said housing at the end of said lever and said resilient device and said blocking projection are positioned between said fulcrum device and said finger-engagable end.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A holster for a handgun having a barrel, a trigger guard and a trigger within said trigger guard comprising: a pouch having an inside panel and an outside panel; a housing secured to said inside and outside panels; a lever device pivotally secured within said housing including a finger-engaging end positioned such that said finger-engaging end is spaced below the trigger guard relative to the barrel and away from the trigger finger of the wearer and a blocking end for engagement with the trigger guard of a handgun when positioned in said holster; a resilient device urging said blocking end of said lever into a position within the trigger guard such that the trigger guard is captured by said blocking end; wherein removal of said handgun requires ~~moving movement of~~ said finger-engaging end in a ~~path that cannot pass over or through said trigger guard or into engagement with said trigger~~ in opposition to the force of said resilient device into a

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position where said blocking end cannot engage said trigger guard; and wherein said finger-engaging end of said lever end is normally inaccessible to the wearer's trigger finger in normal drawing of the handgun.

8. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 7 wherein said resilient device is positioned within said housing.

9. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 7 wherein said housing is secured to said outside panel with a fastener.

10. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 7 wherein said housing comprises an inside guide and an outside guide, said lever device being pivotally secured to said outside guide and said inside guide including a fixed surface constituting a stop for said trigger guard.

11. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 7 wherein said housing comprises an inside guide and an outside guide, said lever device being pivotally secured to said inside guide and said outside guide including a fixed surface constituting a stop for said trigger guard.

12. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 11 wherein said inside guide and said outside guide cooperate to define a slot for receiving the trigger guard of said handgun.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A holster for use with a handgun having a barrel, a trigger guard, a trigger within said trigger guard, a grip region, and a barrel-containing region, said holster comprising: a pair of generally planar body members

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joined at their periphery to form a pouch therebetween; a pair of spaced slots through said body members to define a path for a wearer's supporting belt and to hold the holster adjacent to a wearer's body for close carrying of a handgun and concealment purposes; the improvement therein ~~in~~ comprising: a housing and a guide in said pouch, said guide defining a slot for receiving a handgun trigger guard; a lever in said housing including a finger-engaging end and a trigger guard blocking end; means for pivoting said lever within said slot to engage and release the blocking end of the trigger guard; spring means for biasing said blocking end into engagement with the trigger guard; the finger-engaging end extending out of the pouch defined by said body members away below the trigger guard relative to the barrel ~~from the trigger guard when a handgun is located in said pouch, such that the trigger finger of the wearer is inaccessible to the trigger guard region of the handgun and cannot engage the trigger while normally operating the finger-engaging end of the lever.~~

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A holster in accordance with claim 13 and wherein the finger-engaging end of said lever spaced away from the wearer's trigger finger and positioned for actuation only by other fingers.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A holster for a handgun having a barrel, a trigger guard and a trigger within said trigger guard comprising: a pouch having an inside part and an outside part; a housing secured to said inside part and an outside guide secured to said outside part; said housing and said outside guide cooperating to define a slot for receiving said trigger guard, said housing including a pivotable lever having a finger-engageable end and a blocking projection and said outside guide including a fixed surface serving as a stop for said trigger guard; said finger-engaging end being positioned below the trigger guard relative to the barrel ~~relative~~

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~~to said pouch for engagement by a wearer's middle finger or ring finger, but not by~~
~~the wearer's trigger finger;~~ and a resilient member in said housing urging the
blocking projection of said lever into a position within said trigger guard when said
handgun is in said holster, such that said trigger guard is captured by said blocking
projection; wherein removal of said handgun requires moving of said finger-
engaging end ~~in a path that cannot pass over or through said trigger guard or into~~
~~engagement with said trigger~~ in opposition to the force of said resilient member into
a position where said blocking projection cannot engage said trigger guard.

16. (ORIGINAL) A holster as claimed in claim 15 wherein said finger-engaging end
is substantially inaccessible to the wearer's trigger finger during normal
withdrawing of said handgun.